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# Wheelchairs On The Go: Accessible Fun In Florida



## Synopsis

Wheelchairs on the Go: Accessible Fun in Florida is a 424-page paperback of accessible and wheelchair-friendly things to do and places to stay throughout the Sunshine State. Written in a lively style, the travel guide describes access to beaches, tourist attractions, theme parks and activities from parasailing and scuba diving to adaptive golf and sailing. A calendar to wheelchair events, maps, appendixes jam-packed with additional resources and extensive indexes are included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...the insider information on every venue and location can lend richness to anyone's visit to Florida." -- Mark Sedenquist, RoadTrip America (December 2002)"Every once in a while a really useful book comes across my desk." -- Andy Vladimir, Quest Magazine (February 2003)"Finally...practical travel information...vacation possibilities that are anything but sedentary." -- Toni Stroud, Chicago Tribune (October 2002)"It's a must-have resource if a Florida holiday is in your future." -- Candy Harrington, Emerging Horizons Magazine (Winter 2003)"Wheelchairs on the Go is a valuable tool...in opening your area's activities and attractions to all visitors." -- Governor Jeb Bush (November 2002). . . an exhaustive and readable guide for the mobility impaired that doesn't miss a single detail. -- BookSense.com Daily Pick (September 13, 2002...a superbly organized wealth of facts...everything a vacationer needs to know...excellent resource... a superb template for other states. -- Jim Cox, Midwest Book Review Internet Bookwatch (October 2002, Volume12, Number 10...anything you need to know to have a comfortable Florida visit...jammed with valuable

information for anybody... Highly recommended. -- Dave Hunter's Florida Newsletter, Winter 2002/2003, Ontario

In 1965, on a high school football field in Richmond, Indiana, Randy Stigleman missed a tackle that altered his life forever. With a broken neck and totally paralyzed, Randy was rushed to a hospital where he hung between life and death for two weeks. The community rallied behind him with tremendous emotional support and fundraisers to help pay the staggering medical bills. At 17, he was told he would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life. Through stubborn optimism and dogged determination, Randy beat the odds! He never lost his zest for life. After college, he married Michelle, his high school sweetheart. They share a passion that life should be lived to its fullest. As a family man, Randy has two wonderful children. Professionally, Randy is a partner in a successful health care company. Socially, Randy is the life of the party. And for fun, he has snow skied, ridden hot air balloons, flown in a glider, whitewater rafted and gone scuba diving. His real love, however, is fishing. In addition to saltwater fishing around his home in Florida, he has traveled out west and in Canada to fly fish many world-class rivers. Randy is far from the stereotype of a "disabled" person. But don't think that traveling and having fun in a wheelchair is simple. Michelle spends months planning their trips online and by phone. She seeks out details that able-bodied travelers can take for granted. How hilly is the trail to the river? Is the trail paved, mulched or natural? Are the riverbanks level? How far down to the water? Can someone help lift him aboard the boat? Is it shady enough that Randy won't overheat? The Stiglemans have also stumbled across opportunities they never dreamed possible. For instance, one summer in Colorado, they passed a "Disabled Ski School." Curious, they stopped in and discovered a premiere ski program for disabled persons with specialized equipment, classes and specially trained staff. Their only regret was not finding this opportunity years earlier. Somewhere in the Rocky Mountains, the Stiglemans realized that the many mobility-impaired visitors to their home state of Florida probably have the same difficulty. How could those visitors find Florida's gems of accessible fun? Or, for that matter, how could Florida's many mobility-impaired residents find out about the opportunities right around them? How would people know about Florida's beach wheelchairs, adaptive golf carts, swimming pools with lifts and accessible canoe expeditions through the Everglades? There was no single source for all this information. The idea of Wheelchairs on the Go was born. In 1998 Michelle teamed up with Deborah Van Brunt, who has a communications background and whose family travels frequently with the Stiglemans. They published a small access guide exclusively on Florida's Gulf Coast that sold out in less than a year. After four years of research that incorporated and expanded the information in the

first book, the new state-wide Wheelchairs on the Go is the definitive guide to Florida for people using canes, walkers and wheelchairs. The book provides the practical details that the mobility impaired need. It also sends a message of encouragement to stretch one's limits and explore all that life has to offer.

love the information, phone numbers to places, many local that I did not know were there, so look forward to trying to see as many as possible. Full of information you want to know if using a wheelchair, so no surprises on being accessible, or what is available that you may need to have in different places. I understand there are some for many of the states. Great to know if traveling somewhere new.

I bought this to help find places my husband and I can go for short 2-3 day holidays. This book has a lot of information about barriers that most able-bodied people take for granted - ie, gravel walkways vs hard surface, etc. It's divided by regions so you can easily find whatever is available in any given area - for example: Horse& buggy rides with lock-downs for wheelchairs, ramps into pools, accessible rental condos, fishing trips, accessible canoeing, water parks with ramps etc. This will be put to very good use this year!! No excuses now!

Seems to be quite out of date.

I thought my days of fun in the sun were over due to my inability to walk long distances. I was happy to find beaches with wheel chairs, available for the asking, that roll on the sand.

Wheelchairs on the Go: Accessible Fun in Florida (by Michelle Stigleman & Deborah Van Brunt, 424 pages, ISBN: 9664356-5-6 , USA: \$24.95) is a comprehensive guide for any resident or traveler with ambulatory difficulties who would like to have fun in Florida. Michelle and Deborah have covered hundreds of locations and listed the available aids and pitfalls for challenged travelers. You can look up any city or any activity and learn how to adjust or plan your travels, or whether it is not advisable for those with limitations. The authors list so many aids and so many fun activities that anyone who has hesitated to travel because of physical disabilities will want to make Florida a top destination. Every kind of fun activity and attraction is covered, describing the potential barriers and how to overcome them. An EXCELLENT guide book for those who need it, including people who use canes and walkers, or simply can't walk very far. Additions and updates to the book will be posted

I was a little reluctant at first to purchase this book because of the price and being disappointed in another access guide I had purchased. Also, I don't use a wheelchair on a regular basis. After reading a review, I decided to give it a try and I am so glad I did. Its detailed descriptions of the tourist attractions made it easy for me to decide if the attraction would meet my needs. I never realized how many activities were available for those who use wheelchairs. It opened my eyes to so many things I had not even thought about doing. And the accommodations listed are not just motels! The list includes campgrounds, cabins, B & B's, houses, condos, even houseboats and an RV. There is also an appendix chock full of helpful resources. Thank you Wheelchairs on the Go. This book is a real gift to the disabled community and a bargain at twice the price!

Dated

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